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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 007037

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Barzani still pursues dream of Kurdish state - Milliyet
PKK changes its name again - Sabah
Ankara sees PKK changing name as a 'cheap trick' - Hurriyet
New make-up for terrorist KADEK - Aksam
Democrats draft a 'Rumsfeld must go' bill - Aksam
Blair: Turkey's membership important for EU - Miliyet
Blair: Turkey deserves the EU - Hurriyet
UK, Germany favorable to date for Turkey's accession talks -
Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Solana: Cyprus not a condition for Turkey's EU membership -
Zaman
Gul inspires hope on Cyprus - Radikal
Riyadh uses iron fist on Islamic militants - Radikal
Bremer summoned to US to review Iraq plans - Zaman
26 Democrats urge Bush to sack Rumsfeld - Cumhuriyet
US Senate approves sanctions against Syria - Cumhuriyet
US asks Vietnamese help on Iraq - Yeni Safak
Released Afghans sue US for Guantanamo - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Barzani's 'Kurdish state dream': In an exclusive to the Turkish daily "Milliyet," KDP leader Massoud Barzani said he would never give up on the idea of a sovereign Kurdish state. The US has not managed the transfer of authority to the Iraqis in a timely manner, Barzani claimed, so the Americans are now perceived as occupiers instead of as liberators. However, chaos will deepen if the Americans leave Iraq too soon, he added. Iraq will not turn into a Vietnam for the US, Barzani said, and he downplayed the possibility of a civil war. The Kurdish people appreciate the Americans for freeing them from a dictatorial regime. The whole Kurdish zone should be a single state as part of a federal Iraq, Barzani stressed. Barzani said that Kirkuk is a Kurdish town, but reiterated that the Kurds respect the rights of our brothers - including the Turkmen - who live there. Barzani also voiced his respect for the Turkish nation. He called for a political solution to the PKK problem, which has not been resolved through force over the past two decades.

Ankara warns against a Kurdish state: "Vatan" writes that Ankara, discomfited by Northern Iraqi Kurdish leaders' aspirations for independence, will not hesitate to intervene in the face of an emerging Kurdish state. Ankara will warn Celal Talabani, temporary head of the IGC, during his visit on November 19 that the declaration of a Kurdish state would be a cause for war. Meanwhile, the new leader of the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF), Faruk Abdullah Abdurrahman, will visit Ankara November 14-18 to meet with Prime Minister Erdogan and Foreign Minister Gul.

Israeli Ambassador against a divided Iraq: Israel's

Ambassador to Ankara, Pinhas Avivi, told the daily "Sabah" that a divided Iraq would pose a threat to Israel. A federal Iraq will upset regional balances and negatively affect Turkey, Syria and Iran, Avivi stressed. A unitary Iraq will constitute a wall protecting Israel from the real threat, which is Iran. The Israeli Ambassador also rejected press reports that Israel is buying land in Northern Iraq.

PKK/KADEK changes name: At a PKK/KADEK Party Congress on October 26 in Northern Iraq, the PKK/KADEK disbanded itself in order to adopt a more democratic structure. KADEK officially changed its name to the Kurdistan People's Congress (KHK). Papers regard this move as a mere cosmetic change intended to avoid inclusion of the PKK/KADEK on lists of terrorist organizations in Europe and the United States. The PKK has vowed to abandon its Marxist-Leninist path, but Ankara and Washington continue to view all PKK-sponsored organizations as terrorist.

FM Gul in Rome: Foreign Minister Gul had a friendly meeting with EU officials in Rome following the release of the EU Commission's progress report on Turkey. Gul told EU leaders that Ankara would launch a new initiative to achieve a lasting peace in Cyprus after the Turkish Cypriot elections on December 14. He called on the Europeans to step up pressure on the Greek Cypriots as well. EU foreign policy chief Solana said that Cyprus was not put forth as a condition for resuming accession negotiations with Turkey. The progress report on Turkey is positive, EU leaders stressed, and Ankara should not lose enthusiasm for further reforms.

EDITORIAL OPINION

- Riyadh Bombings
- Iraq

"The Riyadh Bombings"

Sami Kohen wrote in mass appeal Milliyet (11/12): "The latest attacks indicate a growing wave of terrorism in Saudi Arabia. Al Qaida is the most likely suspect behind the terrorist acts. It is known that the organization has a strong network in Saudi Arabia, and that its main targets include the US as well as the Saudi Royal Family. . Although the US decided to close its military bases in Saudi Arabia, it seems that Al Qaida continues to treat the Saudi regime as a US puppet. It is very likely that Al Qaida hopes to create an uprising by weakening the Saudi regime after the terrorist attacks. . The Saudi government has pledged minor political reforms in this autocratic country. However, the recent terrorist attacks might slow down the limited democratization process and maybe even put an end it. If that happens, it would be very discouraging for Saudi Arabia's political future and could drag the oil-producing states into violence and instability which could shake the political and economic equilibrium around the world."

"The Chaos in Iraq"

Yilmaz Oztuna wrote in the conservative Turkiye (11/12): "Turkey has lost its influence in Iraq and does not have a say anymore. Turkey's role is now limited to keeping the right to intervene in case of a move by the PKK against Turkey. . This is a very critical situation for Turkey that results from our mistake on March 1 when Turkey declined to participate in the Iraq operation. This is an absolute failure on Turkey's part. But what about the United States, which has all the advantages and military supremacy in Iraq? Has the US been successful in its Iraq policy? The answer is clearly no, as the US has made more mistakes and experienced more failures than Turkey. . We should not comfort ourselves with the apparent EU's support for Turkey's Iraq policy. The EU seems happy because Turkey has proven not to be a part of the big policy picture."

EDELMAN